

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6, 14-20, and 23 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Claim 23 is cancelled. Claims 1 and 14 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 14.

II. Claim Amendments

Independents claim 1 and 14 have been amended to clarify the present invention. No new matter has been added. The support in the specification for the amendments to claims 1 and 14 is discussed below.

In particular claims 1 and 14 have been amended to recite “measuring an inorganic carbonic acid concentration of an outlet water of an ion exchange resin vessel filled with an anion exchange resin, by using an electric conductivity sensor with a gas permeation membrane thereby avoiding influences from other acid ions.” On pages 23 and 24 of the instant specification, measurement is discussed through an electric conductivity sensor. For example, the specification states, “[a]n electric conductivity sensor with a gas separation membrane includes a deionized water line separate from a sample water and the deionized water contact each other with a gas permeation membrane in between. The gas permeation membrane used here allows the carbon dioxide and other gases [to] permeate through, but does not allow ionic constituents and

organic materials...It is clear from the above that because, in the conductivity sensor, the influence of any ionic constituents other than carbon dioxide is averted by the gas permeation membrane, the inorganic carbonic acid concentration can be measured accurately even for sample water having other ion constituents such as chloride and sulfuric acid ions.”

The above indicates clear support for claims 1 and 14 as amended. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments.

III. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 1-4, 14-20, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with written description requirement. In particular, it has been asserted that there is no basis in the specification for claiming “selectively measuring an inorganic carbonic acid concentration of an outlet water of an ion exchange resin vessel filled with an anion exchange resin, thereby avoiding influences from other acid ions,” as recited in claims 1 and 14. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to more clearly recite the present invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The instant specification provides support for the amended limitation of “measuring an inorganic carbonic acid concentration of an outlet water of an ion exchange resin vessel filled with an anion exchange resin, by using an electric conductivity sensor with a gas permeation membrane thereby avoiding influences from other acid ions,” as shown above. Because the subject matter of claims 1-6 and 14-20 is clearly described in a way to reasonably convey to one of ordinary skill in the art that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention, at the time the application was filed,

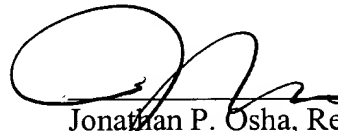
claims 1-6 and 14-20 comply with the written description requirement. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §112 rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

The Applicant believes this paper to be responsive to every issue raised by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 29, 2004. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. This application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and favorable action in the form of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 08228/017001).

Respectfully submitted,

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